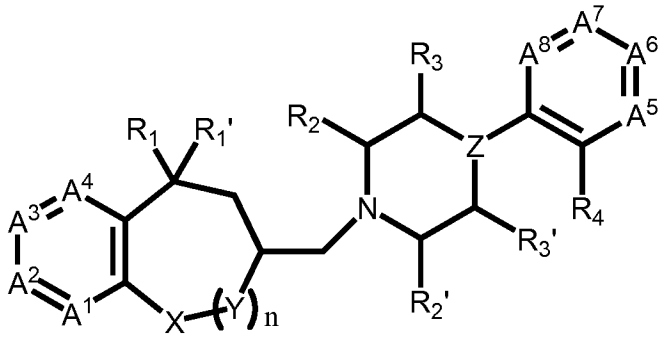
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-48 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 49-68. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-48 (canceled)

49. (New) A compound of the formula I:



I

wherein:

A^1, A^2, A^3 and A^4 each independently represent -C(R_5)- or -N-, provided that only one of A^1, A^2, A^3 and A^4 is -N-;

A^5, A^6, A^7 and A^8 each independently represent -C(R_6)- or -N-, provided that only one of A^5, A^6, A^7 and A^8 is -N-;

R_1 and R_1' are independently selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino group, and a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino group, or R_1 and R_1' together form an oxo group or a C_{1-3} alkyleneketal group;

R_2 represents a hydrogen atom;

R_2' represents a hydrogen atom, or R_2' and R_2 together form a C_{1-3} alkylene group;

R_3 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a halo-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group and a dimethylsulfamoylaminomethyl group;

R_3' is selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a halo-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group and a dimethylsulfamoylaminomethyl group;

R_4 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a cyano group, a formyl group and a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group; or when Z is -C(R_7)-, then R_4 and R_7 together form a -CH_2-O-, -CH(CH_3)-O-, -C(CH_3)$_2$-O- or -N(CH_3)-CH_2- group;

R_5 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl-(C_{1-6})alkylamino group, and a cyano group;

R_6 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, a cyano group, and a formyl group;

R_7 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom and a C_{1-6} alkyl group; or R_7 and R_4 together form a -CH_2-O-, -CH(CH_3)-O-, -C(CH_3)$_2$-O- or -N(CH_3)-CH_2- group;

Ra is selected from a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a (C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group, a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, a pyrazolyl group, a triazolyl group, and an oxazolyl group;

X represents -CH_2- or -CH(OH)-;

Y represents -CH_2- or -N(Ra)-;

Z represents -C(R_7)- or -N-;

n indicates an integer which is 0;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein A^4 is -N-, A^1 is -C(R_5)-, A^2 is -C(R_5)- and A^3 is -C(R_5)-.

51. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein A^7 is -N-, A^5 is -C(R_6)-, A^6 is -C(R_6)-, and A^8 is -C(R_6)-.

52. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_6 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an isopropyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a methylcarbonyl group, a methoxymethyl group, a formyl group and a cyano group.

53. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_1 and R_1' are selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a methyl group, a methoxy group, a methylsulfonylamino group and a methylcarbonylamino group.

54. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_1 and R_1' together form an oxo group or an ethylene-ketal group.

55. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_2 and R_2' are both hydrogen atoms.

56. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_2 and R_2' together form a -CH_2CH_2- group.

57. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_3 and R_3' are selected from a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a fluorine atom, a methoxy group, a methyl group, a hydroxymethyl group, a fluoromethyl group, a methanesulfonylaminomethyl group, a methanesulfonylmethylaminomethyl group, a methoxycarbonylaminomethyl group and a dimethylsulfamoylaminomethyl group.

58. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_4 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, a cyano group, a formyl group and a trifluoromethyl group.

59. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein R_4 and R_7 together form $-CH_2-O-$, $-CH(CH_3)-O-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-O-$ or $-N(CH_3)-CH_2-$.

60. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein Z is $-C(R_7)-$, and R_7 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom and a methyl group.

61. (New) The compound of Claim 49 wherein X is $-CH_2-$.

62. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

(6R,8S)-6-(spiro[isobenzofuran-1-(3H),4'-piperidin]-1'-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol);

(6R,8S)-6-(3,3-dimethyl-spiro[isobenzofuran-1(3H),4'-piperidin-1'-ylmethyl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-quinolin-8-ol;

(6R,8S)-6-[4-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-fluoropiperidin-1-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

(6R,8S)-6-[(3R,4R)-4-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypiperidin-1-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

(6R,8S)-6-[(5'-fluoro-3',3'-dimethyl-3'H-6'-azaspiro[8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-3,1'-isobenzofuran]-8-yl)methyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol; and

(6R,8S)-6-[(1S*,2R*,3R*)-3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

63. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

(6R,8S)-6-[(3R,4R)-4-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypiperidin-1-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

(6R,8S)-6-[(5'-fluoro-3',3'-dimethyl-3'H-6'-azaspiro[8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-3,1'-isobenzofuran]-8-yl)methyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

(6R,8S)-6-[(1S*,2R*,3R*)-3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

64. (New) The compound of Claim 63 which is:

(6R,8S)-6-[(3R,4R)-4-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypiperidin-1-ylmethyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-8-ol;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

65. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a compound of Claim 49, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

66. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a compound of Claim 62, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

67. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a compound of Claim 63, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

68. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a compound of Claim 64, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.